

High Flying Leprechaun

MAR 11 1977

Oakland's highest flying leprechaun, Edward Joseph Daly, is planning one of the most unusual St. Patrick's Day observances since the invention of the shamrock.

Daly, the president and chairman of the board of World Airways, will present a gift-wrapped, 17.5-foot-tall, nine-year-old reticulated giraffe to the people of Mexico on St. Patrick's Day.

The giraffe is to leave its former home at the San Diego Zoo today for its 2,700-mile trip aboard a specially constructed, green- and white-striped truck and trailer.

Daly will fly to Mexico City in order to meet the giraffe when it arrives.

He will present the long-necked African animal to the Republic of Mexico President and Mrs. Jose Lopez Portillo on Thursday, St.

Patrick's Day, in a gala ceremony at which Daly will appear on horseback in full Mexican "charro" regalia at the Mexican presidential residence, Los Pinos.

The giraffe will be kept at Los Pinos for a few days before being turned over to the Mexico City Zoo.

Mexico's first lady, Senora Carmen Romano de Lopez Portillo, is arranging a contest for the children of Mexico to name the giraffe.

Where Could You MAR 13 1977 Hide a Giraffe?

Special to The Tribune

TUCSON — Wally the Giraffe is not a fugitive after all.

Friday night, Arizona Department of Motor Vehicle officials feared Wally, a 16-foot-tall, 2,000-pounder, might have broken out of his truck.

The giraffe is en route to the Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City, as a gift from Edward Daly of Oakland.

Wally, with his head poking 20 feet into the sky from a truck bed, should be an unforgettable sight.

But Friday night, no official agency reported seeing Wally, although Arizona DMV at Yuma confirmed the animal had passed through the point of entry.

"We asked our Tucson units and they said no, they hadn't seen him, and they certainly would have reported it if they had," said a Department of Public Safety spokesman here at the time.

Checks both to the east and west of the city also turned up no one who recalled seeing Wally's head cruising above the traffic.

Wally is traveling through Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and will be greeted in Laredo, Tex., by Mexican police, who will provide an escort to Mexico City.

It turns out one of Wally's trucks became separated from the rest of his convoy in traffic during the night, causing the mixup.

Wally's height caused the

truck to detour around most highway underpasses, because most are too shallow to let the giraffe pass through unscathed.

Wally is a reticulated giraffe and is marked with a net-like pattern. He was the only reticulated giraffe — others are baringo with rectangular patterns — at his former home, the San Diego Zoo.

Daly, an Orinda resident, is president of World Airways, a charter airline based in Oakland.

Meanwhile, Wally, who will be the first Giraffe in Mexico, is presumably still enjoying his trip.

About That Reticulated Giraffe...

MAR 15 1977

Wally is on the home home at the Chapultepec Zoo. stretch today—that long, hot Wally, of course, is that highway that will take him reticulated giraffe weighing into Mexico City and his new 2,000 pounds who has been

making a leisurely—but very careful—journey across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas in a crate aboard a pickup truck.

His caravan passed into Mexico at Laredo, Tex., late yesterday. Startled people laughed and waved at Wally and he just stared back.

His keepers report the

toughest obstacle so far—and there have been many—was an overpass at El Paso, Tex., with a clearance of only 14 feet, 3 inches. Wally's proud head cleared it by three inches.

The giraffe, who seems good-natured about the whole episode, was purchased from

the San Diego Zoo for the Mexican zoo by Oakland's Ed Daly, owner of World Airways.

Chapultepec Zoo has never had a giraffe and people there are excited over the prospect of such a beauty. Wally is probably interested only in a square meal on solid ground.

Death Ends Giraffe's Long Ride

MAR 16 1977

By LOUIE GONZALEZ

Wally the Giraffe died suddenly yesterday in a truck on a central Mexican highway south of Monterrey, 400 miles from his Mexico City destination.

Edward J. Daly, president of Oakland-based World Airways, said he will find a replacement as soon as possible so the residents of Mexico City can have a giraffe in their zoo.

Wally, a 10-year-old, 16-foot giraffe, was being transported from the San Diego Zoo to the Chapultepec Park Zoo as a gift from Daly to the Mexican people. Daly purchased the giraffe for \$5,000.

Philip Ensley, veterinarian at the San Diego Zoo, was accompanying Wally on a volunteer basis to his new home. He attributed the death to pneumonia.

The 2,000-pound giraffe had been making a leisurely trip across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas aboard a special van under the care of one of the most experienced animal transporters, said Jacque Weaver of the San Diego Zoo. The Texas firm never had lost an animal during transit.

Because it was not possible to tranquilize the giraffe, the trip was made by truck over a carefully mapped route to avoid overhanging trees and bridges. Wally protruded from his crate by more than six feet.

When the caravan passed into Mexico late Monday, startled persons waved at Wally as he passed. He merely stared back.

Festivities had been planned for tomorrow to include Mexican President and Mrs. Jose Lopez Portillo in celebration of the arrival of Mexico City's first giraffe.

A Happy Ending For Giraffe Story

APR 20 1977

It was a happy ending for the children of Mexico City after all.

Luis and Phyllis, a pair of matched 4-year-old giraffes, arrived in the mile-high capital last weekend and were the subjects of happy adoration during a parade for them and Edward J. Daly, chief of Oakland's World Airways, who donated the animals.

Three weeks ago Mr. Daly gave another giraffe to the Chapultepec Park Zoo. His name was Wally, age 10. But Wally died of pneumonia just 400 miles from his destination on March 15.

Luis and Phyllis were transported from a zoo in San Antonio

in specially equipped trucks and they made the trip without mishap.

Mr. Daly personally presented the giraffes to President and Mrs. Jose Lopez Portillo during ceremonies at Los Pinos, the Mexican White House.

Residents of Mexico City are receiving an added bonus, for Phyllis is three months' pregnant.

The baby giraffe will be given a Mexican name through a contest being coordinated by Mexico's first lady, who heads the nation's institute for the care of needy children.